

Opening Statement by SRSR Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga

10th Joint Security Committee (JSC)

Friday 28 October 2011 – Mogadishu, Somalia

**Your Excellency, H.E Dr. Abdiwali Mohamed Ali
Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia**

Honourable Cabinet Ministers,

The Deputy Force Commander, AMISOM

The Representative of the Office of the IGAD Facilitator

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues, and Members of the Press

On behalf of my co-chairs, I apologise for rescheduling this meeting for 6 days because of unforeseen urgent developments in the region. Those of you who were here yesterday will have heard what I am about to say, but I wish to reiterate some points for those members of the International Community who are joining us here today.

But let me begin by thanking the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), AMISOM and UNSOA for enabling this Joint Security Committee (JSC) meeting to take place in Mogadishu. This is, of course, the first 2-day JSC in accordance with the Kampala Roadmap and it demonstrates the continued commitment of the TFG to carry forward the substantive inclusive work of implementing the necessary security sector development provisions in the Kampala Accord. I am particularly pleased with the outcome of yesterday's discussions and the role that the regional authorities and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a played in those proceedings. Inevitably, there will be differences but I detected an air of genuine cooperation and inclusiveness.

This meeting is especially timely for a number of reasons. Firstly, I welcome the extension of AMISOM's mandate under Security Council Resolution 2010. While there are some issues yet to be resolved, the extension and continuing involvement of AMISOM is critical to delivering a safe and secure environment which, in itself, is vital to enabling the TFG to deliver the political changes mandated in the Roadmap. I also applaud the efforts of the TFG and regional bodies in the comprehensive and thorough review of the National Security and Stabilization Plan. Its adoption will be a significant milestone in delivering the Roadmap and I urge Parliament to do this as soon as possible. The NSSP will provide a focus for security sector activities over the coming three years. Also, following our first meeting of the Technical Committee on the Implementation of the Roadmap which I convened in Nairobi last week, we agreed that this Joint Security Committee will, at the same time, be the committee for implementing the security pillar of the Roadmap.

I am extremely pleased to note the territorial gains that AMISOM troops have made over the past couple of months. AMISOM forces now effectively control all of Mogadishu. But this progress has not been without cost, with a number of soldiers making the ultimate sacrifice. I extend my deepest sympathies to the friends and families of those who have lost loved ones in the service of peace. It is important, I believe, that all of us involved in this process take stock of what is happening 'on the ground' and remind ourselves on a regular basis that the stakes are high for all of us involved in this undertaking. Clearing Mogadishu of the insurgents is, however, not enough. It must be followed by consolidation measures by the TFG forces and AMISOM in order to establish effective security control of Mogadishu and its perimeter. These operations need to be followed immediately by political and administrative presence by the TFG.

Regrettably, Al-Shabaab have been true to their word following their declared 'tactical withdrawal' from Mogadishu on the 6th of August, and are engaging in terrorist attacks as evidenced by the recent vehicle-borne IED attacks which have resulted in the tragic deaths of many civilians including a number of students. These heinous acts highlight vividly that we cannot afford to be complacent. Collaboration and cooperation between the TFG forces, AMISOM and friendly forces is more vital than ever and all parties must re-double our efforts to consolidate our hard-won gains.

With the renewal of AMISOM's mandate and the territorial gains being made, it is important we look further ahead and I would encourage the AMISOM Force Commander to work, as a matter of some urgency, on the Concept of Operations for the next phase. Of course, we are here to assist in this task.

I am heartened by the progress that we are making on the security side and by the commitment being shown by the involved parties. But establishing and maintaining law and order for the protection of civilians including the IDP camps must be a priority. We also encourage the TFG to continue integrating the militia groups and their leaders in command and control structures of the Security Sector. Real and continuing progress will depend on a collective and harmonized effort between the TFG, its regional partners and the International Community. This requires a clear understanding of the progress that has been made since our last JSC meeting but, perhaps more importantly, what is still to be achieved. Above all, it demands the full support by and engagement of all parties in the delivery of the Roadmap and the National Security and Stabilization Plan.

On this note, I encourage members of the JSC to discuss ways in which international assistance to the TFG security sector institutions can be delivered in order to maintain the current momentum. The Resource Mobilization exercise for financing three sections of the Roadmap has just been completed. Financing of the Security Pillar needs some more work which should also be complete in a few days. Time is short today to go into these details, therefore, I encourage all of you to focus on that which is deliverable and to engage in substantive discussion on what has happened in the past two months and what transpired yesterday in our meeting.

Thank you.