



UNPOS Quarterly

Advancing Peace & Reconciliation for Somali People



The Somalia Peace Process

Delivering Aid in a Conflict Zone

The Constitution Update

The Universal Periodic Review

From the Desk of the SRSG

Welcome to the second edition of our UNPOS Quarterly. It comes in the wake of the signing of Kampala Accord (pictured on the cover) on 9 June 2011 in Kampala, Uganda. The Accord was signed between His Excellency, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the President of Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), Honourable Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, on behalf of their respective Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs).

The signing of the Accord broke the political deadlock which had virtually paralyzed Government business in Mogadishu since 3 February 2011 following the unilateral three year extension by Parliament. The political crisis was basically on how to end the current transition on 21 August 2011 as provided for by the Djibouti Agreement on the basis of the Transitional Federal Charter.

According to the provisions of the Djibouti Agreement and the Charter, elections of the President and the Speaker with his two Deputies were to be held by Parliament 35 days before the end of the transition and a new Government would have been formed. Against this election scenario, the President presented a compelling political and security arguments for deferral of elections and extension of the duration of the Government for one year. The Speaker made equally compelling legal and political arguments for holding elections on 19 July 2011.

The Accord signed under the auspices of His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and facilitated by me provides a compromise between the two entrenched positions which for five months seemed unbridgeable. Elections will now be deferred and the Government extended for one year. The President will remain, but the Prime Minister and his Government would have to re-



sign. A new Government with significant continuity will be appointed and approved by Parliament. The Speaker and his Deputies would remain and there is an understanding that on 3 August 2011 (six months after the self extension) the tenure of Parliament would be reviewed by Parliament.

Furthermore, the Accord stipulates that a Roadmap with benchmarks, timelines and compliance mechanism will be put in place for implementation by the TFIs within the twelve month period. This is to ensure that the priority Charter transitional tasks, which for several years have not been implemented, will be implemented. The tasks include essential reforms, completion and adoption of the constitution, security related targets, preparation for elections and scaled-up political outreach to regional, local entities and social groups. The Accord also provides for measures to ensure political stability and enhanced cooperation between the Government and Parliament.

To ensure compliance with the Accord and the Roadmap, a technical monitoring and coordination mechanism comprising the TFIs, regional and international membership will be established.

It will meet regularly in Mogadishu. The Committee will report to a Regional Political Bureau consisting of the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC). The Bureau will provide political oversight and advice to the TFIs in relationship to the implementation of the Roadmap. There will be a mid-term review of the Accord and the Roadmap by the Bureau.

As we go to the press, the former Prime Minister Honourable Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has resigned to give way to the implementation of the Accord. The decision was taken within 14 days as required in the Accord. I salute him for his courage, wisdom and sense of patriotism. A new Prime Minister, Honourable Abdiweli Mohamed Ali has been appointed by the President and has been endorsed by Parliament. I congratulate him, wish him every success and pledge my full support and cooperation to him and his new cabinet.

I look forward to a harmonious working partnership between the Executive and the Legislative branches of Government to ensure stability during the twelve months period.

Augustine P. Mahiga
Special Representative for the UN Secretary-General for Somalia
UN Political Office for Somalia
June 2011

Farriin ka socota xafiiska SRSG

Ku soo dhowaada Qormada labaad ee Joornaalka saddex biloodlaha ah ee Xafiiskeena UNPOS. Qoraalkan wuxuu ku soo beegmay kadib markii la saxiixay Heshiiskii Kampala (oo ku sawiran boga kore.) oo lagu saxiixay magaalada Kampala, Uganda, taariikhdu markay ahayd 9kii bishii Juun 2011. Hishiiska waxaa kala saxiixday Mudane Sheekh Shariif Sheekh Axmed, Madaxweynaha Doowladda Federaalka KMG Soomaaliya (TFG) iyo Guddoomiyaha Baarlamaanka Federaalka KMG Soomaaliya (TFP), Mudane Shariif Xasan Sheekh Aadan, iyagoo wakiil ka hay'adaha federaalka kmg ee Somaliyey (TFIS) ee ay kala hoggaamiyaan.

Heshiiskan wuxuu xaliyay ismariwaagii siyaasadeed oo gabi ahaanba cuuryaamiyay shaqadii dowladda magaalada Muqdisho tan iyo 3dii bishii Febraayo 2011 ka dib markii uu Baarlamaanku iskiisa muddo kordhin saddex sanno ah ku sameeyay xilligiisa. Qalalaasaha siyaasadeed wuxuu salka ku hayay sidii lagu dhammayn lahaa xilliga ku meelgaarka ah ee ku eg 21ka bisha Agoosto 2011 sida ku qoran Heshiiskii Jabuuti oo waafaqsan Axdiga Federalka KMG.

Sida ay qabaan Heshiiskii Jabuuti iyo Axdiga KMG, waxaa loo baahnaa in Baarlamaanku uu doorto Madaxweynaha, Gudoomiyaha Baarlamaanka iyo labadiisa ku xigeen 35 cisho ka hor inta uusaan dhammaanin xilliga KMG, markaa ka dibna waxay ahayd in dawladd cusub la soo dhiso. Iyadoo ay jirto arrintan doorashada ku saabsan ayaa Madaxweynuhu wuxuu soo jeediyey dood siyaasad ahaan iyo amni ahaamba lagu qanci karo oo uu ku codsanayo in doorashada dib loo dhigo isla markaana xukuumadda loo kordhiyo muddo hal sanno ah. Sidoo kale, Gudoomiyaha Baarlamaanku wuxuu isagana soo jeediyey dood sharci iyo siyaasad ahaambad qancisa oo ku doodayo in doorashada la qabto 19ka July 2011.

Heshiiska, oo uu garwadeenka ka ahaa Mudane Madaxweyne Yoweri Museveni, Madaxweynaha Uganda, aniguna aan fududeeyey, wuxuu meel dhexaad isugu keenay labadii mowqif ee aadka u kala fogaa oo muddo shan bilood ah u muuqday kuwo aan la dhexdhexaadin karin. Hadda doorashooyinka dib baa loo dhigay, Xukuumaddana hal sanno ayaa loo kordhiyay. Madaxweynuhu wuu joogayaa laakiin Ra'iisal Wasaaraha iyo Golihiiisa Wasiiradaba waa inay is casilaan. Xukuumadd cusub oo in badan sideedii ah howlihiina sii wadi doonta ayaa la magacaabi doonaa waxaana ansixin doona Baarlamaanka. Guddoomiyaha Baarlamaanka iyo labadiisa ku xigeen way sii joogi doonaan. Waxaa kale oo la isku afgartay in 3da bisha Agoosto 2011 (lix bilood ka dib markii uu baarlamaanku iskii mudo kordhiska sameystey) uu Baarlamaanku dibueegid ku sameeyeyo muddada jiritaankiisa.

Intaa waxaa dheer, heshiisku wuxuu qeexayaa in la dejin doono qorshe howleed wata shuruudo waxqabad waqtiyeysan iyo hanaan kormeer lagu hubinayo in hay'adaha federaalka KMG ay ku meelmarin doonaan shaqooyinkaas iyo waxqabadkaas muddada 12ka bilood gudahood. Arrintan waxaa looga danleeyahay in lagu xaqiijiyo hirgelinta hawlaha mudnaanta leh ee ku cad Axdiga KMG oo dhowr sannoba aan la hirgelinin. Hawlahaas waxaa ka mid ah in dib u habeyn asaasi ah la sameeyo, in la dhameystiro lana ansixiyo dastuurka, in wax laga qabto ujeedooyinka la xiriira amniga, in loo diyaargaroobo doorashooyinka, iyo in la kordhiyo xiriirka siyaasadeed ee lala yeesho maamul goboleedayda, maamullada deegaanada iyo kooxaha bulshada. Heshiisku wuxuu kaloo uu xambaarsan yahay tallaabooyin lagu xaqiijinayo xasillooni siyaasadeed iyo wada shaqeyn dheeraad ah ee dhexmarta Xukuumadda iyo Baarlamaanka.

Si loo xaqiijiyo in loo hogaansamo heshiiska iyo qorshe howleedkaba waxaa la sameynayaa guddi ama hanaan farsamo ee dusha ka eegaaya waxqabadka iyo habka xiriirinta shaqada. Guddigu wuxuu ka koobnaanayaa hay'adaha federaalka KMG iyo xubno ka socda waddamada gobolka iyo xubno kale oo caalami ah, wuxuuna si joogto ah ugu kulmi doonaa magaalada Muqdisho. Guddigu wuxuu warbixin siin doonaa Xafiis Siyaasadeed ee u dhexeeya waddamada gobolka oo ka kooban Madaxda Dowladaha iyo Xukuumadaha dalalka Ururgoboleedka IGAD iyo Ururka Bariga Afrika (EAC). Xafiisku wuxuu kormeer siyaasadeed ku sameyn doonaa hay'adaha federaaliyaha KMG talooyinka ka siin doonaa wixii la xiriira hirgelinta qorshe hawleedka. Xafiisku wuxuu qiimeyn ku sameyn doonaa Heshiiska iyo qorshe howleedkaba muddada halka sanno ah bartamaha.

Markaan joornaalkan madbacadda u diraynay, ra'iisal wasaarihii hore, Mudane Maxamed Cabdullaahi Maxamed wuu is casilay si uu ugu gogol xaadh hirgelinta heshiiska, go'aankana wuxuu ku qaatay muddo 14 cisho gudahooda sida uu qabo heshiisku. Waxaan ugu hambalyeynayaa geesinimadiisa, garaadkiisa iyo dareenka wadanimo ee uu muujiyey. Madaxweynuhu wuxuu magacaabay ra'iisal wasaare cusub, Mudane Cabdiweli Maxamed Cali, waxaana ansixiyey Baarlamaanka. Aniga waan u hambalyeynayaa, waxaana u rajaynayaa guul, waxaana u ballanqaadayaa isaga iyo golihiiisa wasiiraba taageero buuxda iyo iskaashi.

Waxaan ku hanweynahay in wadashaqeyn wanaagsan ay dhexmarto laamaha Fulinta iyo Sharcidejinta ee Dowladda si loo xaqiijiyo xasillooni ka hirgasha mudada 12ka bilood ah.

Augustine P. Mahiga

Ergeyga Gaarka ah ee Xoghayaha Guud ee Qarama Midoobay u qaabilsan Soomaaliya Xafiiska Qarama Midoobay u Qaabilsan Soomaaliya

Juun 2011



SRSG Mahiga visiting a young patient at a hospital run by AMISOM in Mogadishu

Table of Contents

From the Desk of the SRSG	2	The Somali Constitution	11
In the News	5	The Universal Periodic Review	12
The Somali Peace Process	7	Radio for Peace	13
<i>The High Level Consultative Meeting</i>		Determined Against the Odds	14
<i>The Kampala Accord</i>		Vox Pops	15
<i>The International Contact Group</i>			
Delivering Aid in a Conflict Zone	9		

Information:

Printed by the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Publishing Services Section

Cover photo: Presidential Press Unit, Kampala/Kalibbala Kato Jacob

News

UN Security Council deliberates on Somalia



On 25 May 2011, members of the UN Security Council visited Nairobi to hold detailed discussions on the future of Somalia. During the visit, the diplomats held a two hour meeting with members of the Transitional Federal Government and the Transitional Federal Parliament in which they heard from the Somali President, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the Speaker, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden and the Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

The diplomats emphasized the concern of the international community over the divisions between the leadership and urged all sides to work together and come to an agreement on the timing and form of elections. They called for the leadership to focus on key tasks such as reconciliation, outreach, drafting the constitution, governance and financial accountability.

The UN Security Council members held a separate meeting with representatives from Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug as well as with representatives from civil society. They were also briefed by the UN Special Representative for Somalia (SRSG), Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, the African Union High Representative for Somalia, Jerry Rawlings, and the AMISOM Force Commander, General Nathan Mugisha and met members of the UN Country team and diplomats based in Nairobi.

The Security Council members also held meetings with the Kenyan Vice President, Kalonzo Musyoka and Prime Minister, Raila Odinga about the impact of the Somali crisis on Kenya.

The visit came two weeks after a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on 11 May 2011 to discuss the situation in Somalia. The Council issued a Presidential Statement afterwards expressing grave concern over the continued instability in the country and calling for a comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability.

The Council stressed the importance of political outreach and reconciliation and called for broad-based, representative institutions. It commended SRSG Mahiga for helping the consultative processes amongst Somalis and welcomed the High-Level Consultative Meeting held in Nairobi on 12 and 13 April 2011 and the wide ranging participation, but regretted the failure by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to take part.

The Council further commended progress made by Somali Security Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu. It also called for an increased United Nations presence in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia.

Security Sector Development Office beefs up TFG Support



UNPOS Security Sector Development Office (SSDO) continues to step up its technical support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) with a view to boosting Somalia's security sector.

In late March, SSDO received a delivery of police communication equipment earmarked for the Somali Police Force. The equipment, which consists of VHF handsets and a Biometric database, will help enhance the capacity of

the Somali police force. A USD 10 million aid package from the Government of Japan helped pay for the equipment.

From 18 to 20 April, a delegation from UNPOS SSDO travelled to Mogadishu to meet the Deputy Minister of Interior and National Security, Ibrahim Issac Yarow, newly appointed Police Commissioner, General Sharif Shekhuna Maye and senior leadership from AMISOM. The discussion touched on issues such as establishing and maintaining transparent procedures of payment for the police force, rehabilitation of police infrastructure and police communication /radio networking.

A similar mission took place in Hargeisa, Somaliland with the Minister of Defence, Deputy Minister of Interior, the Police Commissioner, National Security Adviser and the Managing Director of the National Disarmament and Rehabilitation Commission. The mission briefed Somaliland's Security Sector top leadership of its mandate and called for broader cooperation.

An UNPOS police team met the INTERPOL Regional Office in Nairobi to re-launch the INTERPOL data base system in Mogadishu. The system had been previously installed at Somali Police Headquarters a few years back, but gradually became inactive due to the unstable security situation.

Anti piracy Campaign kicks off in Puntland

The Authorities in Puntland are intensifying their war on rampant piracy off the coast of Somalia. On 21 May, Puntland's Minister of Information, Telecommunication and Culture, Ahmed Ali Askar, launched the "Media Piracy Sensitization Project" at the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) in Garowe. The project is aimed at carrying out public education campaigns through the media and participatory activities on the short and long term effects of piracy.

News

The one year Project is funded by UN-POS through the UN Trust Fund, with the PDRC as the implementing partner. PDRC is in close partnership with the Somali media and civil society organizations to make the campaign a success.

The Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) is implementing a similar project in South Central Somalia (and Mogadishu.) The project commenced in mid-March and has begun facilitating focus groups in affected regions through consultations with community leaders and other opinion makers as they work toward developing messaging of raising awareness on the detrimental effects of piracy on individuals and communities.

UN Security Council adopts resolution on Somalia

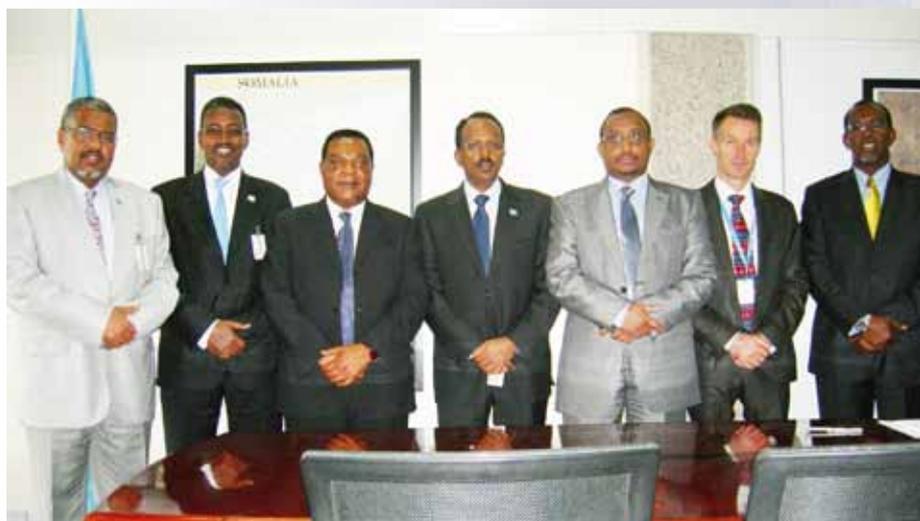


UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

Jack Lang, Special Adviser (to the Secretary-General) on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

On 11 April, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1976 on piracy off the

coast of Somalia which, among other things, proposes setting up two courts inside Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) and one outside Somalia, which specialize in trying suspected pirates. The initiative was proposed by Jack Lang, the Special Adviser on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in his report (25 January 2011). The Security Council requested that the United Nations Secretary-General assess the establishment of such courts and reports back to the Security Council within two months of the adoption of the resolution. The recommendation from the Office of Legal Affairs has been submitted to the Security Council.



TFG meeting UNPOS

SRSG (3rd left) and Deputy SRSG (2nd right) meet with the Somali Prime Minister (4th left) and the Minister for Information (2nd left) on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Meeting on 26 May 2011. Others in the photo are the Minister for Education, Higher Education and Culture, (1st left), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (3rd right) and Ambassador of Somalia to Kenya (1st right)

Somali MPs in discussions

Members of the Somalia Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) at a meeting held on 11 and 12 March 2011 in Nairobi to discuss key issues such as the constitution making process and their decision to extend their mandate. The meeting was opened by Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga.



Somalia Peace Process

Dialogue on the Somalia Peace Process Resumes

By Esther Njoki Mwangi

Renewed efforts to resume dialogue and bring together Somalia's political factions began in April during a High Level consultative meeting hosted by UNPOS in Nairobi.

Speaking at the opening of the two-day summit that took place on 12 and 13 April, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga said: "This is a meeting of Somalis. The international community fully recognizes that it is the Somalis who hold the fate of their country in their hands. I am only the facilitator of this meeting and I have used my good offices as mandated by the Djibouti Agreement, to try and bring all the parties together to share information and experiences."

Several of the most important stakeholders from Somalia attended the meeting among them, the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, Puntland's President, Abdirahman Mohamed Mohamud (Farole) and leaders from Galmudug and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ). The meeting was observed by members of the international community and regional organizations such as the African Union, European Union, IGAD, League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

During the closed door meeting, stakeholders discussed several critical issues of concern including what action to take in light of the end of the Transition period in August 2011 as envisioned in the Transitional Charter. There was a dis-



Somali delegates during the High Level Consultative Meeting

cussion as to whether there should be elections or extension of the Transition. There was an agreement to strengthen security and to redouble joint efforts to defeat extremism, fight piracy and put an end to human smuggling, illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic waste. There was also a consensus on reforming the current TFP and to intensify the process of outreach and reconciliation with regional authorities, civil society and the Diaspora.

In addition, the panel decided that there was the need to accelerate progress towards a new federal Constitution which stakeholders noted was a shared responsibility between the Transitional Federal Institutions, regional authorities and the international community.

The participants highlighted the need to extend immediate assistance to areas recently recaptured from Al-Shabaab and increase the provision of humanitarian and development assistance at federal, state, regional and district levels in order to alleviate the current drought and famine.

While expressing his regret that the TFG could not attend the meeting, the SRSG said: "I have assured both the President and Prime Minister that this is an information sharing exercise between the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), the Somalia States, regions and ASWJ. I hope the conclusions will help inform future substantive meetings."

Somalia's Top Leadership Sign the Kampala Accord

The President of Somalia, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the Speaker of Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden ended five months of political deadlock with the signing of the Kampala Accord on 9 June 2011.

This was seen as a major breakthrough that will help define the end of the current transition period. Under the Accord, the terms of both the Presidency and the Speaker have been extended for one year, while a new Prime Minister should be appointed within 30 days.

The Accord was signed under the auspices of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and was facilitated by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG), Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga

Speaking after signing of the Accord, SRSG Mahiga said: "I am delighted that we have managed to overcome the deadlock in such a constructive way. The leaders worked together in a positive manner to come up with this important political breakthrough. They are to

be congratulated. I also extend my sincere appreciation to President Museveni for his unwavering support over the past week."

The SRSG said the signatories should seek to get the support of other stakeholders including regional authorities and partners. He also urged them to complete the implementation of agreements already concluded with their Somali partners, particularly Puntland and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a.

ICG meeting convenes in Kampala

Before the talks between the President and Speaker, the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia met in Kampala, on 1 and 2 June 2011, under the chairmanship of SRSG Mahiga.

The international community made an urgent appeal to Somalia's top leadership to address the current political stalemate and focus on achieving the priority transitional tasks as stipulated in the Djibouti Agreement.

The meeting was attended by the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, the Somali President Sheikh Sharif, Speaker Sharif Hassan, the President of Puntland, Abdirahman Mohamed Mohamud (Farole) and representatives from Galmudug. The delegations came from 35 countries, international and regional organizations including the African Union, European Union, IGAD, League of Arab States and the United Nations.

SRSG Mahiga told the meeting that in order to ensure that the Government institutions carried out priority tasks such as finalizing the constitution he proposed that they "agree on a set of implementable benchmarks, timelines, a monitoring mechanism and mutual obligations in achieving the transitional tasks."



Participants at the International Contact Group in Kampala

Inside Somalia

Delivering Aid in a Conflict Zone

By Esther Njoki Mwangi



Mohamed visiting a camp for the Internally Displaced

The constant sound of hand grenades exploding so close to his residence is always chilling. Often after the attacks, Mohamed Haji Adan lies in his bed for long hours, thankful for another lucky miss. But he takes little comfort, knowing that more assaults are inevitable. In the span of just one week, the United Nations compound in Mogadishu, which houses Mohamed and other UN workers who serve Somalia's most vulnerable people, is attacked on average three to four times. Sometimes the compound takes a direct hit, resulting in injuries of those who guard the premises. The attacks are no accident as Mohamed, Head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Agency (UNHCR) in Mogadishu recounts: "Hand grenades are hardly stray because they are hurled at specific targets. It is no doubt that it is meant for the compound." This is backed up by the fact that the extremist group Al Shabaab has banned several UN agen-

cies from operating in areas under its control.

Dodging grenade attacks is not the only problem Mohamed has to contend with in this volatile city. "Mogadishu lacks physical safety. There is always constant fighting, indiscriminate shelling

“ The offensive came at a time when a humanitarian crisis in Somalia was at its highest largely due to the prevailing drought. ”

and roadside bombings which hugely curtail our movement and our work," Mohamed says of the hostilities that often confine him to the heavily guarded compound.

Recently, the Government intensified its fight against Al Shabaab in a successful attempt to wrestle back large swathes of territories under the group's control.

Over a hundred people died, scores more were injured, while thousands were forced to leave their homes. The unrest also severely limited the ability of humanitarian aid agencies to reach those in need. "The offensive came at a time when a humanitarian crisis in Somalia was at its height largely due to the prevailing drought. The city has recently attracted a lot of Internally Displaced Persons because of its infrastructure and the presence of some aid agencies," explains Mohamed.

Even when the guns go silent, some areas are still not easily accessible. "There have been growing rifts between the UN agencies and Al-Shabaab who believe that the UN is a threat to their administration. UNHCR is not among those banned by Al-Shabaab but there are always fears because we come under the UN family," Mohamed notes. In Government-controlled areas, Mohamed says, there is genuine encouragement by the leadership to attract aid workers to help the needy. "But there is lack of proper coordination within the Government in facilitating access and delivery of aid," he explains. Looting and the obstruction of aid by security forces are also common problems, he adds.

Mohamed remembers 2008 as a challenging year for aid workers in Mogadishu and the South Central area of the country. In June that year, his friend and colleague Hassan Mohamed Ali was kidnapped from his home in Afgooye some 30 kilometres from Mogadishu by armed men. Hassan was then the head of the UNHCR office in Mogadishu. He was released weeks later unharmed

which came as a huge relief to the entire humanitarian aid community. The year was recorded as the most dangerous for aid workers stationed in Somalia; at least 37 aid workers were killed in the country according to European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department, many among them UN workers.

UNHCR temporarily closed its Mogadishu operation after the kidnapping and Mohamed and other colleagues were moved to the north for their safety. "I decided to move my family from Mogadishu for fear that the situation could become worse. Some of them settled in neighbouring Kenya while the rest moved to Somaliland. "At the time, armed groups had the tendency to harass family members of those they perceived to be targets. Thank God nothing happened to my family," says the married father of two girls and seven boys. It was a wise decision. The war that broke out between 2008 and 2009 rendered his houses completely inhabitable. "I sometimes ask myself what would have happened to my family if I had not moved them. How would they have coped?"

Two years later in 2010, Mohamed took a bold step and volunteered to return to Mogadishu and head the UNHCR operation from there. "I'm not a stranger to the zone since I have been working in the humanitarian sector in Mogadishu since 1993. But even though I understand this environment well, I will always recognize the risks and challenges involved." The decision came at a personal cost as the city was still too fragile for his family to move back. As such, the only regular contact he has with his family is through phone calls and occasional emails.

Despite the difficult security environment in Mogadishu, there have been some notable achievements. When security allows, Mohamed makes some organized brief field trips to IDP camps to monitor their needs and to ensure that they are given the necessary assistance. Also, thanks to his efforts, Ministers of



Mohamed making a presentation at a workshop

the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) pledged to contribute USD 100 of their salaries to the drought affected population in the country. The kind ges-

“ I always found it fun to be here. Mogadishu, once the ‘Pearl of Africa’ was a calm, clean and beautiful city. ”

ture came after Mohamed presented a moving two-hour documentary film on the current situation of the displaced in Somalia.

He has also been the force behind lobbying for the adoption of the African Union Kampala Convention for the protection and assistance of the IDPs in Africa. The 2009 Convention was established to mitigate and offer durable solutions to Internally Displaced People in Africa.

The Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) ratified the document on 5 March 2011. "It has not been easy for the state to focus on such issues with the ongoing war. However, with the great efforts of some young MPs, we made it," he says. Mohamed was born in Mogadishu but spent most of his primary and secondary school years studying in neighbor-

ing Kenya. He returned to Mogadishu in 1993 where he worked in diverse humanitarian organizations before joining UNHCR in 2005. Prior to his humanitar-

ian work, he worked as a teacher and a university assistant.

He fondly remembers Mogadishu as a serene city of beautiful sceneries, stunning beaches, many historical monuments and wonderful weather "I used to come to Mogadishu during my school holidays. I always found it fun to be here. Mogadishu, once the ‘Pearl of Africa’ was a calm, clean and beautiful city."

Much of the city is now destroyed and over 40 per cent of the residential areas completely vacated by those fleeing the two decades of war. "It looks like images from a horror movie with its unroofed building, wild shrubs and animals all over," Mohamed says sadly of a city he once admired. ➤

Constitution Update:

Status of the Constitutional Process in Somalia

The publication of the Consultation Draft Constitution (CDC) by the Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC) in July 2010 was seen as a positive step towards the realization of a new constitution in Somalia.

The deadline for drafting and adopting the constitution was supposed to be August 2011 however many key issues remain unresolved, requiring further discussion and consultations. The constitution-making process has since lost some momentum following a number of unprecedented challenges, though those dedicated to seeing a new Somali constitution continue to strive to overcome these obstacles.

Challenges and contentions

Besides the security situation, the ongoing disagreements between the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) have diverted the attention of Somalis and the international community from the constitution-making process.

Furthermore, the constitution-writing process is challenged by the Charter requirement that it be adopted through a referendum. It is now clear that even if the constitution is drafted within a year, it will not be adopted through a referendum as required by the Charter, owing to the prevailing security uncertainty in the country. As an alternative solution, experts have suggested the establishment of a different mechanism for provisionally adopting the draft constitution.

For the constitution to have legal effect, this measure would have to be agreed on by the TFIs, along with a number of other key issues already contested, such as the system of government and the federal nature of the state.

In addition to these challenges there have been a number of criticisms from the key stakeholders. The Transitional

Federal Government (TFG), the Puntland authorities and some members of the Somali public have criticized the constitution-making process, claiming that the draft is a foreign document which fails to reflect Somali culture and aspirations. Moreover, President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed rejected the document, calling for a team of Somali experts to review it before the Government could endorse it. This review has stalled as a result of the current disagreements between the TFG and the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP).

There have been remarks that the political elites are lacking the political will necessary to expedite the constitution-making process. Although copies of the CDC were distributed to the TFP and the Cabinet, few appear to have read it or considered it

It remains feasible

Despite these challenges, the successful completion of the constitution-making process is still feasible if three main pillars are upheld. The first pillar is the

participation and unwavering support of the country's political leadership. The TFG should actively participate in generating and debating ideas and proposals for the federal constitution in a constructive manner.

The second pillar is ownership. The outcome of the constitution-making process must be a new Federal Constitution that is supported by the Somali people. It must reflect their wishes and represent their views.

The third pillar is the recognition that the Somali constitution process is essentially about peace-building, reconciliation and nation-building. The process must reconcile and unite the Somali people in a common cause. Failure to secure peace and reconciliation is therefore a real threat to Somalis future and stability—which is why constitutional experts continue their indefatigable efforts in supporting the TFG to get the process back on track as a key transitional task within the context of the peace process. ➤



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights helps TFG prepare for the Universal Periodic Review

By Birgit Van Hout and Dr. Omar Abdulle Alasow



Preparatory workshop for Somali authorities held from 15 to 17 February 2011 in Djibouti

For the first time in the history of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was called upon to assist a country – Somalia – in preparing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR, a State-driven process that assesses the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years, presents an important opportunity for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to show its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights to the Somali people and the international community.

To that end, OHCHR along with Djibouti, Italy, and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), organized

a preparatory workshop for Somali authorities from 15 to 17 February in Djibouti. The workshop, which introduced the concept of human rights and the UN human rights structure, was chaired by Abdi Ismael Hersi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Djibouti and attended by seven TFG ministers.

While sceptical at first, the TFG delegation recognized the value of the UPR for identifying key steps to establish human rights protection in a country plagued by nearly two decades of conflict characterized by an alarming number of atrocities against civilians.

The workshop also proved a useful forum for reflection, discussion, and in-

formal exchanges on possible avenues for addressing human rights challenges such as the protection of minorities, children and internally displaced persons, sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, the protection of civilians, toxic waste and other human rights questions.

Armed with new information and ideas, the TFG officials stated that they were committed to use the knowledge gained from the workshop, to not only prepare the UPR report, but also to work for a more just Somali society where human rights are protected and promoted. The ministers also indicated Somalia's intention to ratify key human rights instruments including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The OHCHR will continue to follow up with the Somali authorities on their commitments and provide them with the technical support that may assist the TFG to ratify such instruments.

Speaking during the workshop, Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, emphasized the interconnectedness of peace and security, human rights, and development, the three pillars of the United Nations. He encouraged the Somali delegates to keep the Somali people at the centre of their hearts and minds before, during and after the UPR process. ↗



Radio Bar-kulan takes message of peace to the airwaves

In Somalia, radio has been used as the main tool by all sides to communicate messages as the technology is relatively simple and the cost of a radio far lower than that of a television or computer. A group of Somalis are now using the airwaves to try to bring peace to their motherland using Bar-kulan, the only 24-hour radio station in Mogadishu and its environs.

Bar-kulan derives from two Somali words meaning "meeting place". It was launched on 1 March 2010 and began transmission on shortwave. The station has since expanded broadcasting on FM in Mogadishu and features live web-streaming on the station's web site, www.bar-kulan.com. It broadcasts in Somali from its base in Nairobi, though its website is published in both English and Somali. Bar-kulan has 18 correspondents throughout Somalia.

The station "speaks" to many, meaning there is something for everyone. Besides a regular line up of news updates, entertainment, culture and development, the radio dedicates of programming hours to youth, women, children and religious daily and weekly programs that are focused on promoting peace and reconciliation.

The daily religious program advocates a peaceful co-existence among the various factions in Somalia through quotes and verses from the Holy Quran and Hadith. Hadith are sayings of the Prophet Muhammed. "Every week we invite a Sheikh to read and translate verse from the Holy Quran, as most Somalis do not understand Arabic. There are also discussions in which listeners are given a chance to call in and ask the Sheikh to



Radio Barkulan's studio in Nairobi

interpret certain verses," says Bar-kulan Senior Program Editor, Ahmed Farah. The religious programs aim to counter the extremist messages put out by Al-Shabaab, which also makes effective use of radio.

The youth program, which focuses on peace building, airs everyday apart from Fridays. Producers of the program invite peace activists to give talks on the meaning and importance of peace. In recent years, Human Rights groups have accused all sides of recruiting minors to their ranks. "Youth are most at risk from the warring factions. They are counseled against fighting," adds Farah.

Bar-kulan's children's and women's programs broadcast weekly. While the children's program educates Somali children on the importance of peace and patriotism, the women's program discusses the role of women in peace building efforts in all regions of Somalia including South Central, Puntland and Somaliland. "Women are now telling

men to put down their guns. They are saying they can help restore peace in Somalia," says Farah.

The station also airs sports and music programs which Al-Shabaab has banned in areas under its control. Bar-kulan's blend of programming has made it one of the favorite radio stations in Mogadishu. According to a recent survey, it emerged as the third most popular station in Mogadishu and its environs.

The radio station, which is funded by the United Nations, remains neutral. The editorial aspect of the radio is Somali-led and the UN does not interfere with its content. "Our obligation is to fulfil our mission which is to be an independent radio station that enhances the media scene in Somalia while providing an independent public service, not by following one particular interest group even if it is the organization that is funding us", says Bar-kulan Director, Steve Turner. Ultimately, he adds, the goal of Bar-kulan is to help restore peace and reconciliation in Somalia. 



Determined against the odds

By Lucie Sewe



Mogadishu City Ladies Basketball Team playing against Nairobi Girls Team

Claps and cheers filled the air as the girls entered the gymnasium amid a huge crowd of fans. This basketball match in April was something special. For the first time in two decades, the basketball fraternity in Kenya witnessed the participation of a team from Somalia. What is more, it was an all-girls team. The young women came from Mogadishu to Nairobi to participate in the East and Central Africa Inter-Cities Tournament, an international event held at the Nyayo National Gymnasium, Nairobi.

Clad in light blue baggy track suits, designed to match the Somali national flag, and a head covering (known as Hijab in Somalia), the Mogadishu City Ladies Basketball team was distinctively different from the opposing team. The young women, however, did not allow the bulky outfits to hinder their swift movements. "Our culture demands that we dress like this at all times," said a team member. "Exposing ourselves in public is an abomination." The mostly tall, slender girls aged between 16 and 20, who came from different clans, showed a natural talent for the sport.

Their first match was against the experienced Nairobi City Ladies team. The Somalis dominated the first half, scoring first. The spectators, many Somali refugees as well as other nationalities cheered on the team. The girls displayed

an exemplary performance, giving the Nairobi team a run for their money.

Speaking during a time out, Asha (not her real name), said that she had been playing for a year before this event, primarily as a hobby, but also to be in the front line of promoting peace. "Our team wants to help change the image of the country. We want the world to know that there are girls out there in war-torn Mogadishu, and girls who can make a difference," remarked Asha, who is only too aware that the Somali culture expects women to maintain a low profile. "We are ready to stand for Somalia," she added.

During the preparation training, the team faced a number of challenges. They had only three months to constitute a team of players from different parts of Mogadishu and to prepare for the competition. Further, the training took place primarily in Government controlled areas, making it dangerous for players who commuted from Al Shabab controlled areas. Asha recalls with trepidation her ordeal, "Traveling by public transport was a very scary experience. I was never sure of getting to the training venue or when the militia would attack." Some days passed without training due to fighting between militia groups and Government forces. As a result, the final sessions took place in

a police camp in Mogadishu to ensure safety and consistent attendance.

The organizers of the girls' basketball team, which include Mogadishu Mayor, Mohamed Ahmed Nur, and the Somali Ministry of Local Government, considered this initiative not only an excellent way to develop the young women's talents, but also a strategy to protect them from unfavourable activities and possible recruitment into militia groups. "This is very good for our youth as most of them have little or no hope for education," said an official from the Ministry.

Alongside other cities, the team was invited by the East and Central Africa Inter-Cities Basketball Committee (ECAIBC) and was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Local Government. The Mayor of Mogadishu facilitated the preparation training, travel and other logistics for the twelve players, a coach and three officials, with the Kenyan counterparts. It was all accomplished within a very tight budget and amidst a number of other constraints. ECAIBC stepped in to organize the visas as Kenya has no Embassy in Somalia.

Asha said the entire team was happy to have spent a few days in Nairobi, a relatively peaceful environment, and a breather from endless fighting back home. "I wish we had a few more days here," she said.

Several people around the world know little about Somalia and only identify it with war. Although the Mogadishu girls did not win at the annual event, they emerged victorious in another small but significant way by showing that working together as a team, despite clan and ideological differences, may be a solution to alleviating some of the misery in Somalia. "We hope to perform better next year if the political situation is more supportive," said Asha. ➤

Vox Pops

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is under pressure from the International Community to deliver a new constitution which is seen as one of the key components of the transitional tasks. Somalia's post-independence constitution was adopted over five decades ago in 1960.

In July 2010, the Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC) published the Consultation Draft Constitution (CDC). This was followed by a series of radio and television campaigns aimed at enlightening and creating a dialogue with Somalis inside the country and in the Diaspora on the content of the draft.

We recently asked Somalis in Mogadishu, Puntland and Nairobi: What do you know about the constitution-making process in Somalia?

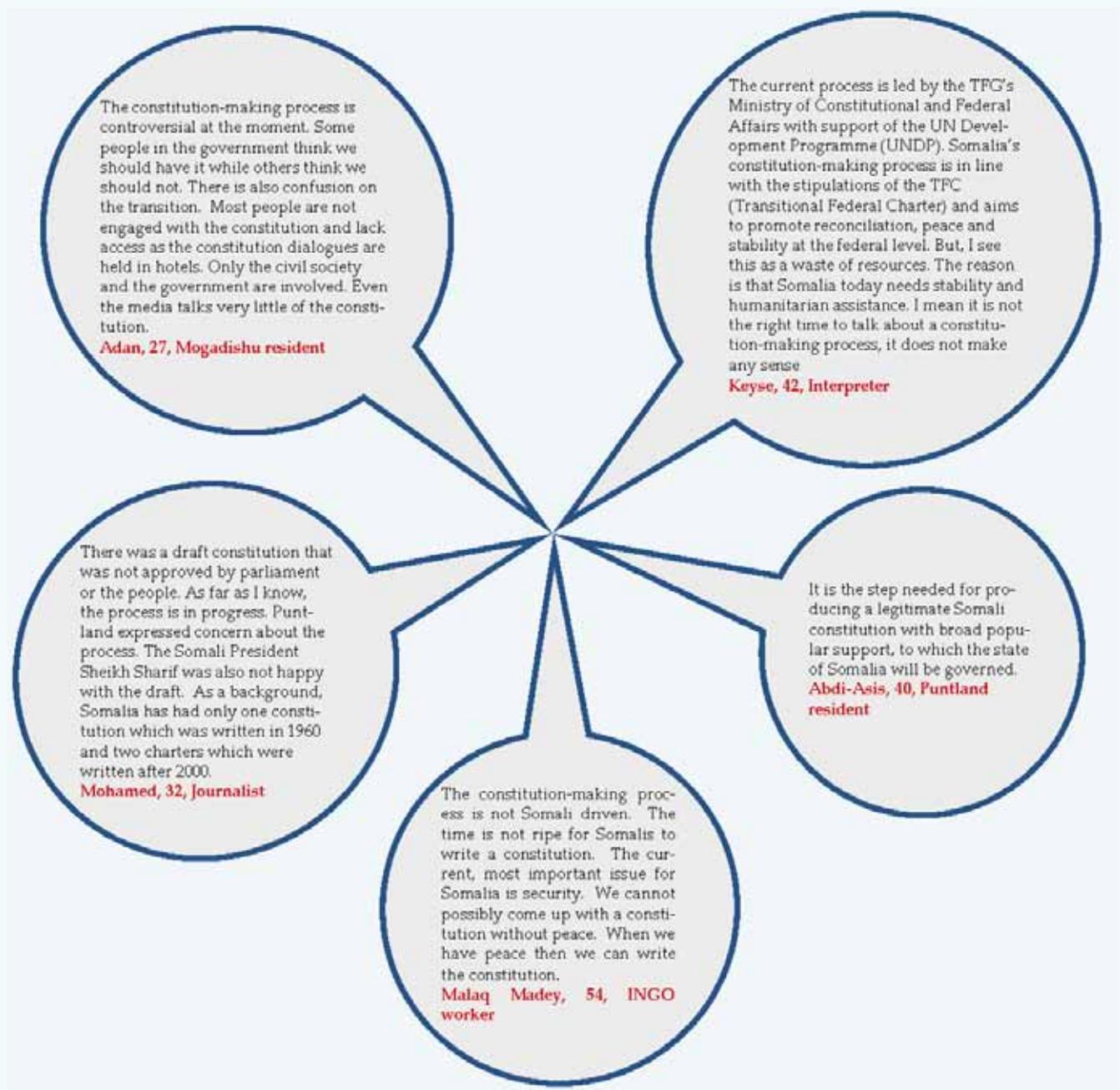






Photo: UN Somalia/Monoocher Deghati



UNPOS

Advancing Peace & Reconciliation for Somali People

Public Information Office

Email: unpos_pio@un.org
Website: www.unpos.unmissions.org