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Note to the Secretary-General

**STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL OFFICE FOR SOMALIA
(UNPOS)**

1. The Somali National Reconciliation Congress held from 15 July to 31 August 2007 was seen as an important first step towards national reconciliation and peace in Somalia. A key recommendation of the Congress called on the TFG to continue to reach out to the opposition both within and outside the country, including through facilitation by members of the international community. The effective implementation of this recommendation and support to the TFG towards the effective implementation of the provisions of the Transitional Federal Charter would require not only political will and commitment on the part of the TFG and other Somali stakeholders but also concerted international support and assistance coordinated and spearheaded by the United Nations through the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).
2. Both the Security Council resolution 1772 (2007) and the Policy Committee Decision No.2007/35 have called for intensified UN efforts to promote an all-inclusive political process, in close partnership with the African Union, the League of Arab States, IGAD, the European Union, and the International Contact Group on Somalia (ICG), and to define a common UN peace-building strategy for Somalia. In addition, the Security Council requested you to provide it with an assessment of further measures to strengthen the ability of UNPOS to fulfil its enhanced role in Somalia.
3. In light of the above and as a follow-up to your letter dated 27 August 2007 (S/2007/522) to the Council, on strengthening the capacity of UNPOS, I recommend that the mandate of UNPOS be reviewed to provide it with the necessary resources to implement an integrated UN approach for Somalia leading to a common UN peace-building strategy, which will include mediation/facilitation with all Somali parties; coordinating UN political, security, electoral, humanitarian and development support to the Somali transitional federal institutions; working with external partners engaged in facilitation efforts.
4. The implementation of such a strategy would require strengthening UNPOS' existing Political Affairs Division, establishing a Humanitarian/Development Unit as well as a Legal Office, with additional senior staff, including a Deputy SRSG Political (D2), upgrading the post of Head of the Political Division to the D-1 level (using the D-1 encumbered by the current DSRSG); a Legal Advisor (P-5); a Humanitarian/Development Affairs Officer (P-5). I also recommend an increase in the number of substantive posts as well as additional support staff and national staff to strengthen UNPOS activities in the field.
5. This proposed new structure of UNPOS would require a revision of the budget for the year 2008 which is currently in the Controller's Office. Attached is the description of the staffing requirement.


B. Lynn Pascoe
9 October 2007

cc: Ms. Lute
Mr. Sach

ANNEX

I Office of the SRSG

The SC in its resolution 1772 (2007) requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to promote an all-inclusive political process, in close partnership with the African Union, the League of Arab States, IGAD, the European Union and the International Contract Group on Somalia. In the same resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide it with an assessment of further measures to strengthen the ability of UNPOS to fulfill its enhanced role in Somalia. Furthermore, the Policy Committee (Decision No.2007/35 of 30 July 2007) decided that the UN should play a greater leadership role and recommended engagement with all national, regional and international actors in the Somali crisis, facilitating discussions with other Somali constituencies such as the business community and working with other partners in defining a common UN peace-building strategy for Somalia clearly highlights the need to beef up the capacity of UNPOS.

As a first step in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the said resolution and the Policy Committee decision on the same issue, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council, through a letter dated 27 August 2007 (S/2007/522), of his intention to upgrade the level of the Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to that of Under Secretary-General and to appoint Ahmedou Ould Abdallah as his Special Representative. In a letter dated 4 September 2007, Council members took note of that choice.

As part of its new mandate, UNPOS will be required to undertake Good offices, Mediation/Facilitation and provide technical assistance to the TFIs. The SRSG will therefore deal with planning of activities regarding dialogue with the various parties including political actors, business community, armed groups, representatives of the Diaspora and other Civil Society actors. The Office will also provide assistance to the TFIs in the implementation of the Transitional Federal Charter for the remaining period of two years. Furthermore, it will be engaged in effort to address in collaboration with the existing regional bodies the security concerns of countries of the region. The Office will also be required to play a lead role in the harmonization of the efforts of the international community for the resolution of the Somali crisis.

II. Office of the Deputy SRSG in charge of Political Affairs (D2)

The Principal Deputy to the SRSG will be in charge of Political matters. As such he/she will advise and assist the SRSG in all matters related to the implementation of the revised mandate of the Office. He/She will supervise the work of the administration and act as officer-in charge in the absence of the SRSG.

Director of Political Affairs (D1)

The Head of the Political Unit will implement the directives of the SRSG in terms of planning. He/She will also be in charge of the RBB, the supervision of information analyses, and the five (5) Field Offices already established in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garoowe, Hargeisa and Kismayo. In consultation with the Head of the Political Affairs, the Political unit will elaborate strategies in support of the efforts of the SRSG to move the reconciliation process forward, including

facilitating dialogue between the TFG and the opposition groups and, working towards the regional security architecture. The Political Unit will follow up on issues pertaining to assistance to the TFIs for the implementation of the Transitional Federal Charter for the remaining period of the transition including preparations for the holding of democratic elections. The Unit will therefore be reinforced to include the following additional staff: -one (1) Political Affairs officers (P4); two (2) Political Affairs Officers (P3). The latter would not only act as focal point with the field offices, they would as well monitor development in the region within the framework of the intermission cooperation, and fulfill all the required reporting tasks linked to the leadership role requested to UNPOS by the International Community. The P3 staff members would also assist in monitoring the implementation of the activities approved in the RBB in collaboration with the National Political Affairs Officers. The office would also need electoral officers at P4 and P3 levels.

Civil Affairs/ Electoral Officer, P4 and P3

The Transitional Federal Charter envisages the completion of the constitutional/federalization process, census and the holding of elections before the end of 2009. Accordingly, UNPOS intends to undertake actions aimed at creating conditions for these processes as well as facilitating their implementation. The civil affairs officer/ electoral will provide support and recommend sound policy approach on electoral issues, in coordination with UNDP to achieve synergy and coherence in mandate implementation.

Human Rightsⁱ

The already precarious human rights situation in Somalia has critically worsened over the past nine months. This marked deterioration led the Policy Committee to call for the strengthening of a human rights strategy requesting the involvement of both UNPOS and OHCHR. UNPOS is presently staffed with only one Human Rights Officer (P4) who is mainly devoted to general human rights monitoring activities as well as the provision of human rights advice to the SRSG and UNPOS. However, given the situation and the needs on the ground, there is a clear need to strengthen the human rights component of UNPOS.

Within the overall framework of strengthening UNPOS, the proposed Human Rights Unit would carry out the following activities: (i) provide human rights advice to the SRSG as well as to the UNCT, including with regard to a human rights-based approach to programming and as well as in the context of the protection cluster; (ii) monitor, document and report on the human rights situation in Somalia, including by carrying out human rights investigations if required and conditions permitting; (iii) provide advice and support with regard to capacity and institution building, including with regard to judicial and legal reform, police, as well as transitional justice; (iv) provide support and advice to national human rights networks, civil society and members of Parliament; (v) promote the ratification and implementation of key international human rights treaties; and (vi) promote and provide advice on the integration of human rights into the potential future peace accords.

Generally, the Human Rights Unit would function within UNPOS according to the principles laid out in the Policy Committee Decision number 2005/24 of 26 October 2005, on human rights in integrated missions.

ⁱ DPA to consult OHCHR/Geneva on proposal received through UNPOS Human Rights Officer

Humanitarian and Development Affairs

To win the hearts and minds of the Somali population and in order to sustain UNPOS' actions in the field, the Humanitarian and Development Unit will be tasked with the responsibility to liaise with the UNCT in developing responses to humanitarian crises in Somalia. It will also assist in mobilizing international support including the organization of a Donors Conference and be responsible for the replenishment of the Trust Fund.

The Head of the Humanitarian and Development Unit (P5) will advise and assist the SRSG in all matters related to the development of responses to humanitarian crises, and transition from Humanitarian to Development. He/She will serve as the principal Focal point for contacts with the UNCT and the Donor Community.

Gender Advisor (P4)

The Gender Advisor will identify and address the challenges in order to promote the efficient and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (S/ PRST/2006/42) notably by encouraging and supporting the active participation of women in the ongoing political process as well as in the institutions. The Gender Advisor will be in charge of the elaboration of gender mainstreaming and strategic plan for UNPOS with a view to building the capacities of women.

III. Legal Office

The Legal Office will comprise a Legal Advisor (P-5). The Legal Office will advise the SRSG on all aspects relating to the implementation of UNPOS mandate as well as on issues of national law as they affect the implementation of the mandate. The Legal Office will also provide legal advice and guidance to the senior Mission management and the Mission's Administration on all aspects of the Mission's operations. In addition, it will provide advice on administrative, personnel and contractual matters related to the Mission's operational activities, including in areas such as the preparation of the SOFA.

IV. Public Information

The Public information assistant at P3 level will assist the PIO officer in managing the website, providing the office with daily press review and reporting the activities of the office in the media and editing the mission's Newsletter.

V Administration

The Administration will be managed by the Chief Administrative Officer (P5). He/She will contribute to the implementation of the mission mandate by providing the necessary managerial, logistical and administrative support required for the fulfillment of the mandate, including such areas as budget, finance, human resources management, general services and logistics. The Office of the Administration will include a chief administration officer at P5 level and a Head of finance at P4 level.

The Administration will also be reinforced by two Field Service staff (one Human Resources Officer, one Cashier), one General Service/Other level (one

Communications/IT Technician) and eight National staffs (4 Assistants and 4 drivers).

VI. Travel

Considering the revised mandate of UNPOS which places special emphasis on Good offices, Mediation/Facilitation, it is expected that the number of Official travel would increase as UNPOS staff will be required to travel extensively in-country, within the region and overseas for this purpose. Therefore and within the framework of his mandate, the SRSG and other UNPOS staff will undertake official missions within the region, as well as to Europe and the USA. Such missions will include consultations with leaders of countries such as Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Dubai, Qatar and Yemen as well as meetings in Europe with the P5, E.C, International Contact Group for Somalia, and the Friends of Somalia. The SRSG will also be required to travel to the UNHQ to brief the Security Council and/or consult with other key international partners, including some members of the Security Council, at capital level. For their regular contacts with the parties in Somalia, the SRSG and other UNPOS staff will initiate missions to all the regions of Somalia. Considering the increased frequency of travel that the implementation of the new mandate will entail, we will have to provide a substantial increase (about 20 hours per month) in the budget for air travel.

VII. Regional Offices

With the prevailing security situation, UNPOS has not been able to relocate to Somalia as planned. However, in order to increase its presence in the field, UNPOS has opened five field offices in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garoowe (Puntland) Hargeisa (Somaliland) and Kismayo. Two offices are fully operational with the presence of two (2) National Political Affairs Officers in Mogadishu and Baidoa. Two other NPAO are under recruitment to be located in Hargeisa and Garoowe. With the restructuring of UNPOS there will be a need to reinforce field offices with National officers to allow the UNPOS/HQ based in Nairobi to be more operational in the implementation of the activities approved in the RBB and the Trust Fund. Five additional National Officers will therefore be recruited including two (2) Civil Affairs, one (1) Gender, and one (1) DDR.

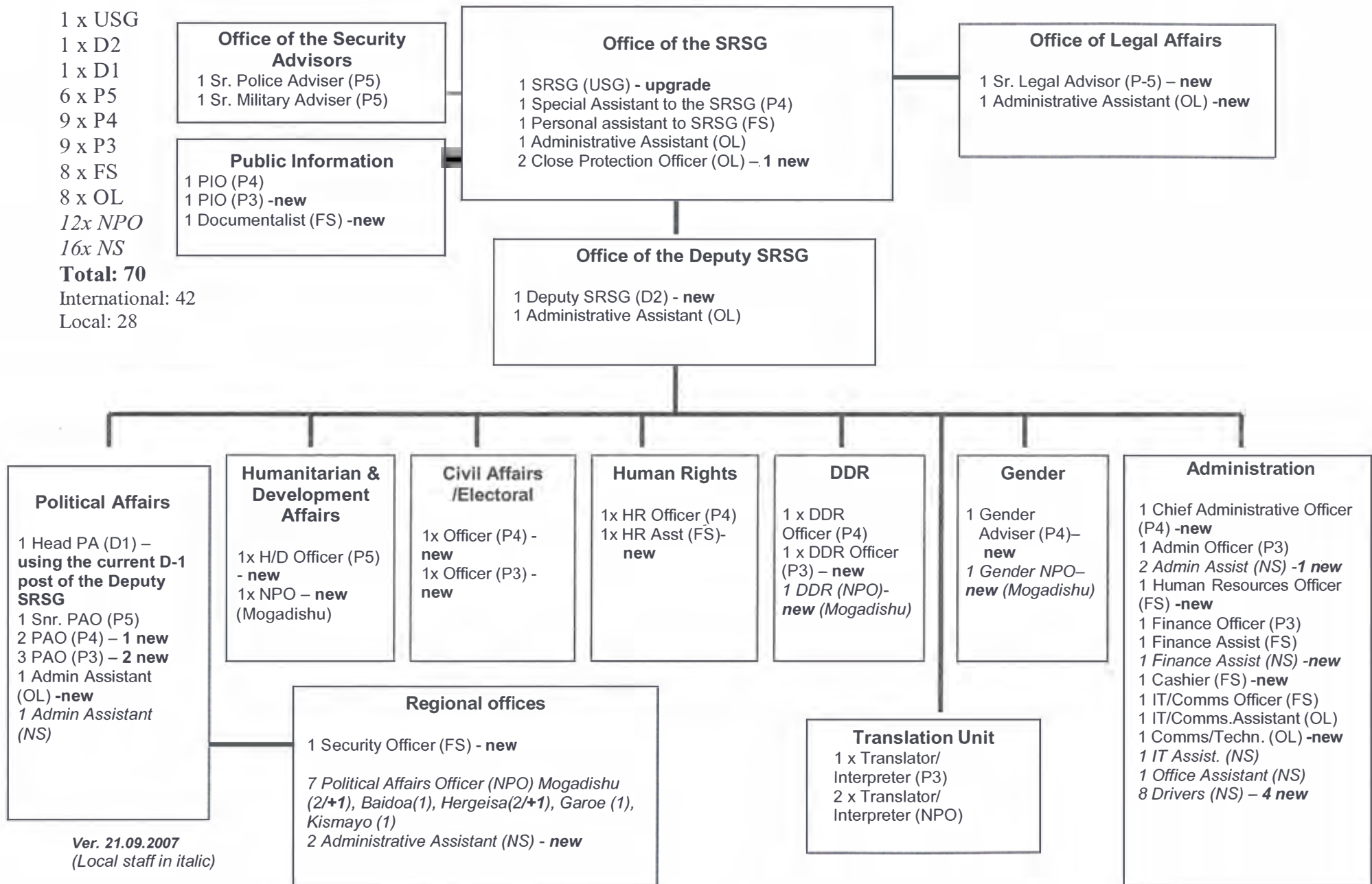
UNPOS SOMALIA 2008

1 x USG
1 x D2
1 x D1
6 x P5
9 x P4
9 x P3
8 x FS
8 x OL
12x NPO
16x NS

Total: 70

International: 42

Local: 28



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(Local staff in italic)