

REPUBLIC OF



SOMALILAND

PRESIDENT

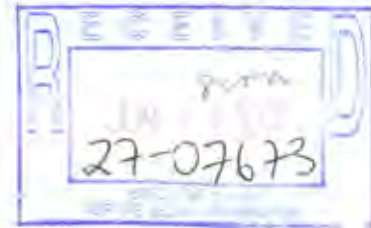
Ref: RSL/P/UNSC004/062007

HE. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General
UN Secretariat

Fax: +1 212 963 4879

Your Excellency,

ACTION *Passer*
COPY *PTG/jm* 10/06/07



1. In the light of the Council's forthcoming consideration of Somalia - which I understand to be scheduled for 14 and 28 June - I am writing to set out to the Council the concerns and views of the Independent Republic of Somaliland in the north-west of the territory of the former Somali Democratic Republic.
2. The former British Protectorate of Somaliland joined the Somali Democratic Republic in 1960 but thereafter its people experienced years of discrimination, repression and finally civil war. In 1991, when the Somali Democratic Republic collapsed, Somaliland re-constituted itself as an Independent state. This was not a secession, but a reversion to the *status quo ante*. In 2005 an AU fact-finding mission concluded, for this reason, that acknowledging Somaliland's independence would not set a precedent for the redrawing of colonial boundaries in Africa. Since 1991 Somaliland has built a stable democracy.
3. The government of Somaliland strongly shared the Security Council's concern about extremist elements associated with the Union of Islamic Courts in southern Somalia. Equally we now share the Council's concerns about the growing violence in southern Somalia that has followed the military defeat of the Union of Islamic Courts and the installation of the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu.
4. The government of Somaliland wishes to continue to be a constructive partner for the Security Council as it works for peace and security in the Horn of Africa. We wish to see southern Somalia become a stable and peaceful neighbour after a genuine process of national reconciliation. We are ready to share our experience of national reconciliation and state building and to assist in stabilising the south in any way we can. Somaliland is committed to good, peaceful and open relations with southern Somalia and is ready to enter into dialogue with the south with a government that enjoys national support.
5. The government of Somaliland will of course continue to offer its fullest co-operation to the Secretary General's Special Representative for Somalia and to all bodies of the United Nations. We are ready to offer any assistance that the UN may require with its exploration of the possibility of a UN peacekeeping mission in southern Somalia or with its humanitarian efforts.

6. The government of Somaliland is fully aware that It must make progress on securing international recognition within Africa initially, and is working to spread awareness of Somaliland in Africa and to promote AU engagement with the issue, including at the forthcoming AU Summit in Accra. Somaliland requests that, through its policies and responses towards the situation in Somalia, the Security Council acknowledges the existence and needs of Somaliland as a separate entity, and shows awareness that the problems of Somalia as a whole cannot be solved without also addressing the issue of Somaliland.
7. I should be most grateful if you could circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council for the information of Security Council members. //
8. I am copying this letter to the Secretary General and to the local EU Presidency.

Dahir Rayale Kahin
President, Republic of Somaliland

