

SG's meeting with Mr. Francois Fall, SRSg for Somalia – 27 June 2007

- **Thank you for your leadership and continued efforts to foster inclusive dialogue and reconciliation among the Somali people at this critical stage.**

Progress towards convening the NRC and the broader political dialogue

[Despite the TFG's declared military victory over the insurgency, the situation in Somalia remains unstable. The forthcoming National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) offers a rare opportunity to begin re-establishing consensus among Somalis on political, social and security challenges. However, it has been repeatedly postponed and some key stakeholders, particularly donors, have insisted that the Congress should be all inclusive and that the organizing Committee should be truly independent. The TFG leadership and the Chairman of the National Governance and Reconciliation Congress complained that the donors had not been forthcoming with the necessary financial support to organize the Congress. On 13 June, the Chairman announced the postponement of the Congress to 16 July, at the request of some elders, so as to allow more time for the selection of delegates. He indicated that the objectives of the NRC would include the restructuring and broadening the transitional federal institutions, inclusion of technocrats and representatives of the civil society in the government, the process of drafting of a new constitution, the preparation of a census and elections. Somalia's Government has given an amnesty to both the leaders and fighters of the Union of Islamic Courts to persuade them to attend the NRC next month. From Doha, a coalition of the Union of Islamic Courts, former Somali parliamentarians and representatives of Somali Diaspora issued a communiqué, which among others, rejected the NRC as an illegitimate process. They called for the establishment of a Somali National Movement for the liberation of the country from the foreign oppressive occupation and for the convening of their own separate conference within the next 45 days. In an interview with TV Al Jazeera, the Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys of the UIC declared that the Islamic insurgents would target foreign forces in MOGADISHU, adding it made no difference to the Islamists whether they were Ethiopian or AU Mission in Somalia.]

- **I am encouraged by the assurances given by the TFG leadership that the Congress would be inclusive of any clans, sub-clans or individuals who renounce violence and accept the Transitional Federal Charter. However, any further delay would undermine the credibility of the process.**
- **What is your assessment of the NRC itself? What is the status of preparation of the Congress? What outcome is expected from the process?**
- **For the broader political dialogue, what can be done to bring on board opposition groups, who are not on the UN Al-Qaeda list, with a view to broadening representation within the Transitional Federal Institutions?**
- **What are the remaining tasks that need to be completed before the end of the transitional period?**

Security situation

[The UN Secretariat has prepared a contingency planning for a possible deployment of a UN force in Somalia, at the request of the Security Council. The Burundian contingent is expected to be deployed in Somalia by the end of July. There is an urgent need to strengthen AMISOM capabilities on the ground, including the expedited completion of its full deployment, to help create conditions conducive for dialogue and reconciliation and to facilitate the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces. On 6 June, the International Contact Group on Somalia indicated that it looked forward to receiving plans for a UN peacekeeping mission.]

- **What is your assessment of the security situation? What are the prospects of AMISOM completing its full deployment?**