

THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

A. Update on the Peace Process:

In order to assist Somalia to consolidate its yet fragile peace process and lay the foundation for sustainable peace, reconstruction and development, the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) has elaborated a political strategy aimed at: (i) importing the peace process from Djibouti into Somalia; (ii) assisting the TFG to enhance dialogue with opposition forces and build a 'critical mass' in support of the peace process; and (iii) consolidating the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). However, for the government to succeed in its efforts to consolidate peace, it has to deal with the continuing security challenge (see below).

It is in support of this political strategy and peacemaking efforts that a three-phased approach to address the ongoing security challenge was developed. The first phase focuses on the establishment of Somali security institutions and strengthening AMISOM. The second on establishing a UN "light footprint" in Somalia, and the third on deploying, at an appropriate time, a UN peacekeeping operation. The Brussels donor conference on 23 April was organized with the aim of mobilizing international support for the first phase- that is, the strengthening of Somali security institutions and AMISOM forces.

B. Security Situation:

In early May 2009 there was an attempt to overthrow the legitimate government and take power in Mogadishu by force. This attempted coup was led by Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys and included Al Shabaab fighters. Reports indicate that the attacking forces included increasing numbers of foreign fighters. This was subsequently confirmed by Al Shabaab spokesman and Shiek Aweys. The current situation remains fluid, particularly given the government's limited capacities due to lack of resources. However, more recently government forces have shown increased organisational acumen which has led them to regain control of many of the positions they lost to the insurgent militias. For example, of the 16 districts in Mogadishu, the government now controls 11 and is confident that it will gain a firm hold over the capital in the coming weeks.

The recent surge in violence is clearly a response to the government's strategy to reach out and build a critical mass in support of peace. As the government gains success in its strategy of negotiation, persuasion and inclusion, radical elements within the opposition feel threatened and ratchet up the level of violence accordingly. At present, there seems to be an alliance of convenience between three extremist groups: Al Shabab, a radical group led by Somalis who were trained in Afghanistan and have links to Al Qaeda; Hizbul Islam led by Shiek Aweys and Hassan Turki- both on the UN's sanctions list; and a well-funded and well-organised group of foreign combatants among them Western citizens of Somali origin, Asians and Africans. All three groups are allegedly receiving support from Eritrea, with Qatar and Iran often acting as financiers. The three countries deny any links to the insurgent groups.

More recently at the regional level, IGAD, backed by the AU, has called on the UN Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over a number of airports and a blockade of

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URGENT

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for the Secretary-General's information, background material for his lunchtime meeting on Friday 5 June.

In view of the Secretary-General's travel schedule, the Political Unit is seeking to have the material transmitted to the Secretary-General tonight.

Nicholas Haysom
4 June 2009

cc: KWS

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment (if applicable):			

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two strategic seaports in south-central Somalia. Furthermore, both organisations have called on the international community to impose sanctions against Eritrea.

B. Support to AMISOM and Somali Security Institutions

i) Logistics support package to AMISOM:

Security Council Resolution 1863 requested the UN to provide a logistics support package to AMISOM. According to DFS, AMISOM is due to receive USD 73 million in support up to end of June 2009. This is being provided in the form of infrastructure support, airlift capabilities, and the construction of AMISOM headquarters and Level II hospital. The delivery of security equipment, field defence stores, pharmaceuticals and other essential medical supplies reached AMISOM on 22 April and specialised support equipment including engineering vehicles, communications equipment and an airfield fire fighting truck are in Entebbe and will be delivered to Mogadishu.

A comprehensive funding proposal covering July 2009-January 2010 for USD 185 million will be before the 5th Committee this week. A draft MOU, which is essential for the delivery of the support package to AMISOM, has been submitted to the AU for comment.

ii). Brussels Donor Conference:

During the 23 April Brussels Donor Conference, Somali Security Institutions received USD 48 million and AMISOM received 145 million in pledges. In-kind pledges were also made in the form of troops, air-lift support and training to 500 troops which will form part of the National Security Force. UNPOS has established a Pledge Tracking Team that includes the AU and UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) to ensure that pledged amounts are translated into actual commitments; to map out the activities and areas that donors are willing to fund; and to ensure transparency of delivery.

Many donors have expressed their intention to use the two UN Trust Funds established to support to Somali Security Institutions and AMISOM, however, no contribution has been channelled through this mechanism. Most of the funds committed since Brussels have been aimed at assisting the Government in resisting the ongoing attacks by extremist forces. To date, support has largely come from countries in the region including Algeria, Djibouti, Yemen, Kenya and Sudan in direct cash and military assistance. In addition, the United States has made a significant financial contribution.

Others will channel their support to Somalia security institutions through UNDP's existing Rule of Law and Security (ROLS) Programme, AMISOM, or through in-kind assistance. Given the lack of capacity of the TFG to effectively manage and coordinate this support, there is a risk of piecemeal and incoherent assistance to the security sector and rule of law institutions.

Security Council resolution 1872(May 2009) requested the Secretary-General to support the TFG in developing a national security strategy, which should include plans for combating arms trafficking, DDR, justice and corrections capacities. This

Despite insecurity and limited access to certain locations, humanitarian agencies and partners have succeeded in delivering relief assistance to populations in Mogadishu. In the Afgooye corridor where a third of the newly displaced have sought refuge, UN Agencies and NGOs are managing to distribute basic relief items using local partners.

Violence and insecurity remain a threat and have adversely affected response capacity, despite continuing attempts to establish a humanitarian relationship with armed opposition groups. The humanitarian community experienced a setback when Al-Shebaab militia looted and destroyed the UNICEF compound in Jowhar in mid-May, which served as the main hub for the provision of medical supplies to South-Central Somalia. As a result, 135,000 malnourished children will suffer from the break in nutritional and medical supplies while 840,000 women and over 1.2 million under-five children will no longer benefit from the second round of the Child Health Campaigns.

Insecurity in Somalia also affects its neighbours. During the month of April, some 3,700 Somalis arrived at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya bringing the total number of Somali new arrivals this year to 25,000. These camps are already hosting more than 260,000 refugees, three times the estimated maximum capacity.

Despite the challenges, the humanitarian operation for Somalia is defined as difficult but not impossible, making the mobilization of the requisite resources for this challenging operation urgent. The Consolidated appeal for Somalia, seeking \$983 million, is only 35 percent funded, with key sectors such as health, shelter and security extremely badly funded.

D. Piracy

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and its four Working Groups have met twice since their establishment in early 2009.

The third plenary of the contact group was held on 29 May 2009 in New York under the chairmanship of the United States. All subsequent meetings of the Contact Group will be held in New York. DPA made a statement on behalf of the UN system, mainly focusing on the importance of supporting land-based initiatives to counter the root causes of piracy and the question of prosecution and holding perpetrators accountable.

On the former, the Contact Group agreed that the UN Secretariat will submit a written proposal on how the Contact Group can establish coherence between land-based counter-piracy initiatives and its activities. With respect to the latter, it was agreed that an international Trust Fund would be established to defray the expenses associated with the prosecution of suspected pirates.

The next meeting of the Contact group is planned for September 2009 in New York and will be chaired by Japan. In response to requests made by some members of the Contact Group, the UN welcomed a role in administering and managing the international Trust Fund for the prosecution of pirates, and expressed readiness to act as a secretariat to the CGPCS.

DPA
5 June 2009