

Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the Debate on Somalia in the UN Security Council on October 16, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to thank the Guatemalan delegation for organizing today's debate on the situation in Somalia.

As the new authorities start their work in Mogadishu, it is a good time to deliberate upon the progress achieved so far, the challenges that lie ahead, and how the international community can continue its support for the government and people of Somalia.



We have carefully noted the views expressed by SRSR Augustine Mahiga, and I would thank him for his valuable statement.

Mr. President,

During the course of last year there has been remarkable progress in the process of stabilization of political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. This has created a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace and stability in Somalia after two-decade long conflict.

The adoption of a provisional constitution, formation of the new parliament, elections of the President and the Speaker, and appointment of the new prime minister clearly reflect the collective resolve of the Somali people to move from the transitional institutions to a more representative government that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Somali society.

These important milestones would not have been possible but for the coordinated and concerted efforts of the international community, including the African Union and the United Nations.

The important role played by SRSg Mahiga in the successful completion of the transition process deserves our special appreciation.

Our congratulations are also due to the new Somali leadership, particularly H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the new President of Somalia. It is a matter of immense pride for us that President Mohamud spent a few years studying in India in the late 1980's.

Mr. President,

The gains on the political front have been made possible by the impressive achievements of AMISOM and the Somali forces on the security front.

Thanks to AMISOM, Mogadishu is today firmly under the control of the Somali authorities.

Last week, AMISOM and the Somali forces secured the strategic towns of Kismayo and Wanla Weyn from Al Shabaab. The support of the international community to AMISOM operations has been instrumental in these successes.

We commend all troop contributing countries, in particular Uganda, [Burundi](#) and Kenya, for their commitment to the Mission and for the sacrifices their troops have made.

Mr. President,

In order to [consolidate](#) the gains made, the new government in Somalia has to embark upon building effective state institutions that can pursue national reconciliation, provide the rule of law, revitalize economic activities, and restructure and strengthen the security forces.

It is also necessary to expeditiously implement the pending tasks of the Road Map. In this regard, we welcome the six-point policy framework set out by President Mohamud, and call upon the international community to fully support the implementation of the framework.

Mr. President,

AMISOM remains the mainstay of the international community's efforts for stabilization of the security situation in Somalia. AMISOM and the Somali security forces have continued to expand their control in all four sectors of operations.

Still, Al Shabaab remains a major threat to peace and stability in Somalia, and has turned to asymmetrical warfare.

The changing security situation demands further augmentation of resources for AMISOM, including enablers and force multipliers.

We, therefore, support the request made by the AU for a technical roll over of four months, continuing the current support package. We also support the expansion of the logistical support package to cover the deployment of additional civilian personnel and to include naval assets for CoE reimbursement.

The latter is crucial to safeguard the supply routes of AMISOM and to prevent Al-Shabab from benefitting from illegal maritime trade and piracy.

Mr. President,

Maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the humanitarian plight of hostages held by pirates remain a major cause of concern for India.

Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at over US \$ 160 billion annually.

Indians constitute 7% of the world's seafarers and a consequence of piracy has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers have had to pay. According to the Secretary General's latest report, 259 hostages from 18 ships are still held by pirates. Of these, 43 are unfortunately Indian nationals.

We hope that the international community will provide full assistance to the new government in Somalia to implement the comprehensive set of measures to counter piracy as identified in the roadmap.

Mr. President,

India and Somalia share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in UNOSOM-II.

Last year, following our Prime Minister's announcement at the second India-Africa Summit, India made a financial contribution of US\$ 2 million to AMISOM. This year, we are making another contribution of US\$ 1 million.

We have also continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resources development, and have recently increased the number of scholarships available for Somali experts and students to utilize in Indian academic institutions. We have also contributed to the development of the information technology sector in Somalia.

Mr. President,

As Somalia moves on to a new phase of pacification and peacebuilding, the continued support of the international community will remain critical for its success.

I would like to assure the new government of Somalia of India's continued support for our common endeavours to put Somalia back on to the path of peace, stability, and prosperity.

I thank you.

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